

California Recreational Trails Committee

Minutes

May 29, 2008 5:00 PM

Shell Room of the Bahia Resort Hotel

998 West Mission Bay Drive

San Diego, California

- I. Call to Order and Comments from the Chair
 - A. Meeting called to order at 5:05 PM by Greg Gandrud, Chair
- II. Introduction of Committee Members and Staff
 - A. Greg Gandrud (GG), Member
 - B. Jeannie Gillen (JG), Member
 - C. John Mercurio (JM), Member
 - D. Maryanne Vancio (MV), Member
 - E. Laura Zabkar (LZ), Member
 - F. Paul Romero, (PR), Chief Deputy Director, California State Parks (CSP)
 - G. Dan Ray (DR), Chief of Planning Division for California State Parks (CSP)
 - H. Steve Musillami (SM), Executive Secretary of CRTC / Statewide Trails Manager for CSP
 - I. Cheryl Essex (CE), Park & Recreation Specialist for CSP
- II. Minutes approval from February 2008 Meeting
 - A. Minutes from the February 27, 2008 meeting were approved by consensus.
- III. Correspondence
 - A. A letter from Julia Larke on the MacKerricher SP Coastal Trail (attached) was read and submitted to the committee (SM).
- I. Reports
 - A. State Park Director's Report (PR)
 - 1. State Budget: Governor has recommended full funding for CSP 2008-09 with \$1.5m increase in fees. Sen. Laird has authored a bill that would increase vehicle fees which would entitle anyone with California license plates free day-use access to all State Parks.
 - 2. An annual Director's Award was presented to local volunteers and cooperating state agencies for the installation of the Sandy Creek Bridge at Millerton SRA.
 - 3. The Tejon Ranch accord contemplates a new 48,000 acre state park.
 - 4. Tony Look trail recognition is being organized by the Sempervirens Fund and others. An interpretive overlook contemplated for Big Basin SP and/or a new trail at Castle Rock SP. PR encourages supportive members and the public to advocate for this designation.
 - 5. PR is retiring next month, so this is his last meeting. Members thanked him for his service.
 - B. Statewide Trail Manager's Report (SM)
 - 1. The Trail Use Change Survey is being discussed in a conference session and reviewed by CSP management.

2. Coastal Trail: The Waters Ridge trail at JP Burns SP may begin construction in the fall. Glass Beach trail at MacKerricher SP – an EIR is being prepared. Litigation is threatened, so we cannot discuss CSP's opinion of the attached letter. Elephant Seal Trail project is approved with a summer '09 construction start scheduled. Garrapata SP access improvements are scheduled for fall 2008.
 3. Recreational Trails Plan corridor status review is underway. Goals & Action Items will be presented and discussed at a conference session.
 4. Proposition 84 funding for minor trails: Fuller Ridge/Pacific Crest Trail at San Jacinto, Snipes/Pershing Ravine bridge at Folsom Lake SRA and Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP trail bridge replacements.
- C. Chair Report: GG offers thanks to everyone for helping to keep parks open.
- D. Member Reports
1. MV thanks Louise Hogerheide and Chuck Osbrink for a great report on the San Diego segments of the California Riding & Hiking Trail and thanks SM for Warner Springs Ranch trail project involvement.
 2. LZ reports two separate dog attacks on mounted horses on trails near Auburn recently. Both horses incurred substantial injury. One of the dog owners fled the scene unidentified and one was cited.
 3. JM had no report.
 4. JG welcomed visitors and new chair GG while thanking MV for chairing meetings last year and hosting a successful workshop earlier in the day. A letter was written to the governor asking that Montana de Oro SP not be closed. Karen Baker at CSP asked JG to send California Trail Days volunteer involvement data so it could be compiled into the Volunteers in Parks report on the California State Parks website.
- E. Subcommittee Reports
1. CRTC Awards Subcommittee: LZ will be presenting the CRTC award tomorrow.
 2. User Conflict Subcommittee: GG reported that the Santa Barbara area Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force is working on multi-use trail management strategies such as an agency Memorandum of Understanding, joint maintenance funding, voluntary trail use guidelines, quarterly work days, assessment and trail classifications. Pilot trail use designations will be monitored. The recent Trail Use Change Survey from SM as well as the CET&LC multi-use guidelines are important developments. Legal issues are a continuing concern. He asks staff to post these on the website. JG read two emails from Mike Vandeman (attached). She is encouraged by the Trail Use Change Survey of CSP and wants to continue to work on this issue. GG wants to discuss this at the November meeting.
 3. Trail Portal Subcommittee: GG mentioned some models, including <http://www.greeninfo.org>. MV expressed concern about the potential for incorrect information without tight controls. JG noted that Pacific Crest Trail users upload journal information to the website. GG reiterates the need to control information and responsibility, which may be done by log-on permission. Maybe geography students could verify information. JM stated that funding must be found.

II. New Business

A. Meeting Calendar (SM) adopted by consensus

1. August 2008 – conference call proposed
2. November 2008 – Marin
3. February 2009 – Glendale
4. April 2009 – Yosemite (conference)

III. Public Comment

- A. Progress Report by the Common Ground Ad Hoc Committee: Mary Benson reported that current representatives are Mike Lunsford, Maryann Webster, John Keyes, Janet Peterson, Lynn Brown, Steve Box and herself. The goal is to reduce user conflict and evaluate factors that influence a quality trail experience. Listening to diverse opinions, respectful discussion and consensus-based decision-making are stressed. Safety, human behavior, trail conditions and natural resource impacts should be considered for each type of use. A web site has been created. The group will report progress and findings in writing. Steven Box provided a demo of the website <http://www.californiatrails.org> which solicits comments from trail users on conflicts and access issues and could be used to communicate on California Trail Days activities. Lynn Brown reported that Mike Lunsford has been in a serious accident so meetings have been delayed to await his recovery. The committee is conducting research to see if trail access has been reduced for any user group and invites comments to info@californiatrails.org. If data shows a net gain of multi-use trails (allowing mountain bikes) increases conflicts, then the establishment of multi-use trails need to be closely examined. She stressed that safety and the quality of the trail experience are paramount for hikers and equestrians. Trail users must work together to solve this issue.
- B. Jim Hasenauer representing IMBA has concerns regarding AB 2923 that provides \$180,000 next fiscal year for wilderness studies on specific state parks. He is concerned that a lot of information on the web is from a small group of people and that the committee is susceptible to railroading.
- C. Ken Wells invites all to Annadale State Park with 25 miles of multi-use trails. Sonoma County Trails Council, of which he is president, was established in 1967. He reports that the first meeting of the group United Trail Users of CA meets on June 21 in Sacramento. There is a Trails Jamboree in Santa Rosa.
- D. Ruth Gerson is concerned about the Trail Use Change process and suggests that the Tapia Spur Trail is not safe. She asked that information about the cost of maintaining the committee be released and questions what goals have been obtained. She wondered why vacancies are filled with reappointments instead of new appointments and thanks the committee members for volunteering.

IV. Next Meeting

- A. August 12 via conference call locations in San Diego, Carpinteria and Sacramento.

V. Adjournment at 6:24 PM.